



mi air mi health

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RE: Support of HB 5143

Dear Members of House Tax Policy Standing Committee:

On behalf of the MI Air MI Health coalition, I am writing to express strong support for the passage of HB 5143. My name is Kindra Weid, and I am a critical care registered nurse and the Coalition Coordinator for MI Air MI Health. We are a non-profit coalition of health professionals that works to improve outdoor air quality in Michigan and educate policymakers about the negative health impacts of air pollution. We advocate for clean, outdoor air quality through the support of clean and renewable energy policies.

We feel that ALL POLICIES HAVE HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS and that tax and energy legislation are no exceptions. Our air and water quality, our Great Lakes and the public health of our residents will be impacted by the decisions made before this committee. Here's how:

HB 5143 will encourage the use of private, alternative energy sources, such as solar panels, while allowing tax exemption for the personal property owner. This will encourage renewable and clean energy production and improve our outdoor air quality. The combustion of fossil fuels, specifically coal and oil, contributes to a significant amount of negative health outcomes for Michigan's residents.

- There is a significant body of research linking exposure to air pollution to negative health outcomes, such as: asthma, chronic heart and lung conditions, various cancers, stroke, diabetes, cognitive disorders and dementia. Our most vulnerable populations (i.e., children, seniors, low-income residents and people of color) are at the greatest risk of suffering from these negative health impacts.
- One of our largest sources of air and water pollution is the toxic emissions that are a byproduct of burning fossil fuels for energy production. These include

particulate matter, ground-level ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, mercury, arsenic and lead. The environmental impacts of greenhouse gas emissions on climate change and subsequent impacts on human health should also not be ignored.

- Sadly, these negative health impacts can be found right here in Michigan. In comparison to other states, Michigan ranks 7th worst with regards to the negative health impacts associated with ground-level ozone. In fact, in a study published by the American Thoracic Society in 2015, it was estimated that there were 275 deaths, 640 cases of serious illness and over half a million "impact days" each year associated with the negative health impacts of ground-level ozone. "Impact days" are days in which people suffer from such severe respiratory symptoms that they miss work, school, or are unable to participate in their usual activities of daily living.
- In Michigan, we have the opportunity to replace our remaining coal-fired power plants with emissions-free sources of electricity, like wind and solar. This legislation encourages personal property owners to utilize alternative, clean sources of energy through tax exemption. This will improve our air and water quality, and it will decrease deaths, hospitalizations and serious illnesses exacerbated by air pollution here in Michigan.
- Encouraging clean, renewable energy will reduce dangerous pollution and protect the health of Michigan's most vulnerable populations.

Please remember: ALL POLICIES **DO** HAVE HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS. We strongly encourage you to consider the passage of this legislation with these health impacts in mind.

Thank you for your consideration,



Kindra Weid, RN, MPH
Coalition Coordinator, MI Air MI Health